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STUDIES AND SKETCHES BY SIR EDWIN LANDSEER, R.A.



WE are indebted to the courtesy of his Grace the Duke of Westminster for the loan of several most characteristic and interesting sketches by Sir Edwin Landseer, among which is that engraved on this page. In 1849 the artist exhibited at the Royal Academy a very charming picture, which he called 'The Forester's Family;' it was either a commission from the late King of the Belgians, or was purchased by his Majesty, and it is now in the royal gallery at Brussels. The composition consists mainly of the forester's wife, who has been cutting by the lake-side long grasses or fern,

for the sake of which she is followed by a number of pretty fawns; she is preceded by her son, a stout little Highlander, carrying on his shoulders rather grotesquely a pair of huge antlers of a stag: our engraving shows the original study for the boy—who, however, is not seen as here represented, in full front, but rather sideways, a little in advance of his companions; in costume and every other particular the two figures are strictly identical.

The 'Falconer,' an outline figure of much energy of expression, drawn with pencil, holds on his wrist a fine falcon, hooded, and in all other respects apparelled for the sport; the bird is executed



The Forester's Son (1849).—Lent by his Grace the Duke of Westminster.

in sepia, the head being slightly coloured; the two are grouped in a statuesque manner. Landseer painted numerous lake-scenes, most of them on a small scale, and more as studies of backgrounds than for any other purpose. That here engraved,

JULY, 1875.

from a drawing in coloured chalks, is said to be Loch Laggan; it is evidently of the same character as the sketch which appears on an earlier page (97), and shows unmistakably a poetic feeling, in which solitude and quietness are the prevailing elements.

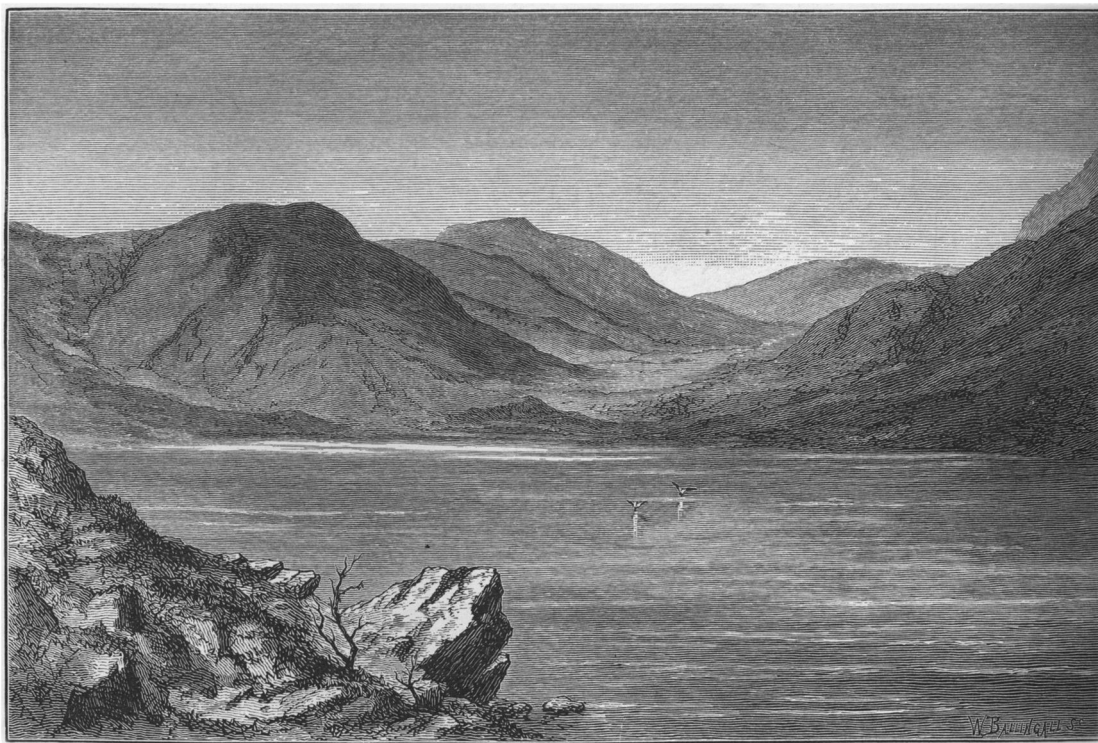
When and where 'Cæsar' lived, we cannot ascertain; all we know of him is told by the artist himself in the lines he has

written on the sketch, which is rather elaborately drawn in pencil: it is the lifelike head of a noble animal, trained,



A Falconer (1837).—Lent by Frederick A. Milbank, Esq., M.P.

as it seems, to the gun, for he holds in his mouth, a dead bird. | The engraving which follows is from a highly-finished drawing



Scottish Lake-Scene (1829-30).—Lent by H. G. Reid, Esq., Middlesbrough.

in pencil, which must have been executed when Landseer was comparatively young: what the story is that it is meant to

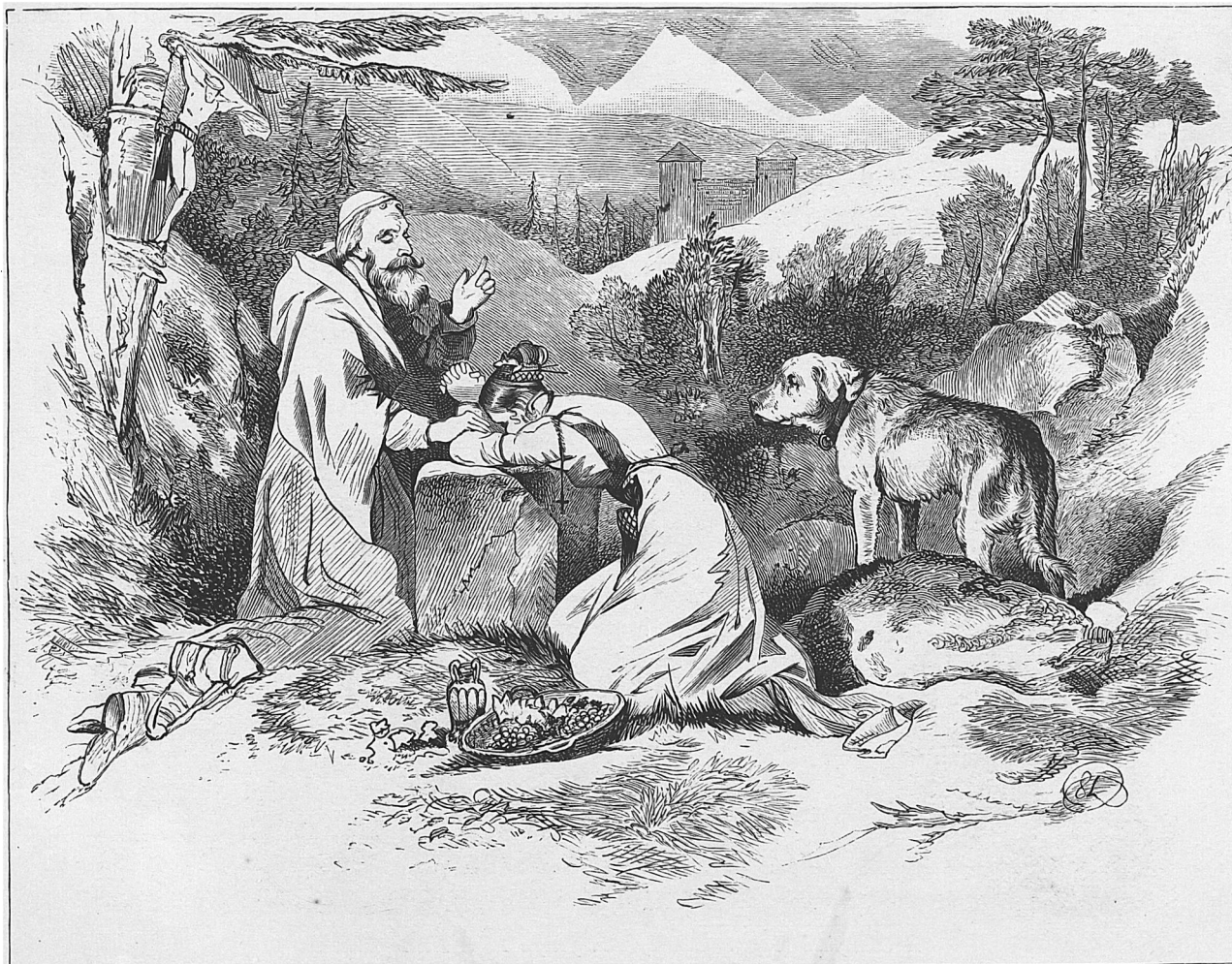
illustrate, we have failed to discover; the scene undoubtedly is Swiss, and it has been suggested that Scott's "Anne of Geier-

stein" would throw some light upon it, but there is nothing in that story which at all corresponds with what we have here;



Cæsar.—Lent by W. P. Bodkin, Esq., Highgate.

and yet we cannot suppose it to be a mere design of the artist's fancy. But whatever is implied in the composition, it is very



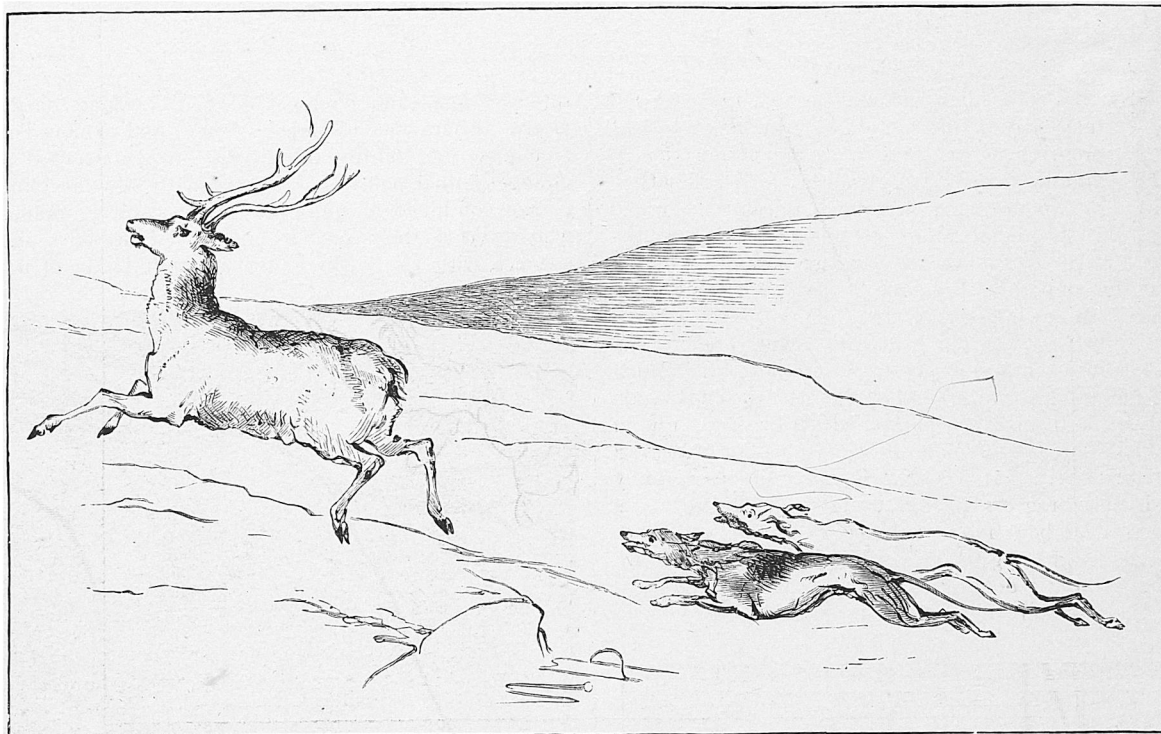
Confession.—Lent by John Fowler, Esq., C.E.

cleverly put together, and is so interesting in itself that one's curiosity is excited to find out what Landseer intended in it.

There is, by the way, some awkwardness of drawing in the legs of the monk, which are unquestionably far too long.

What marvellous speed is shown in the action of the two dogs,

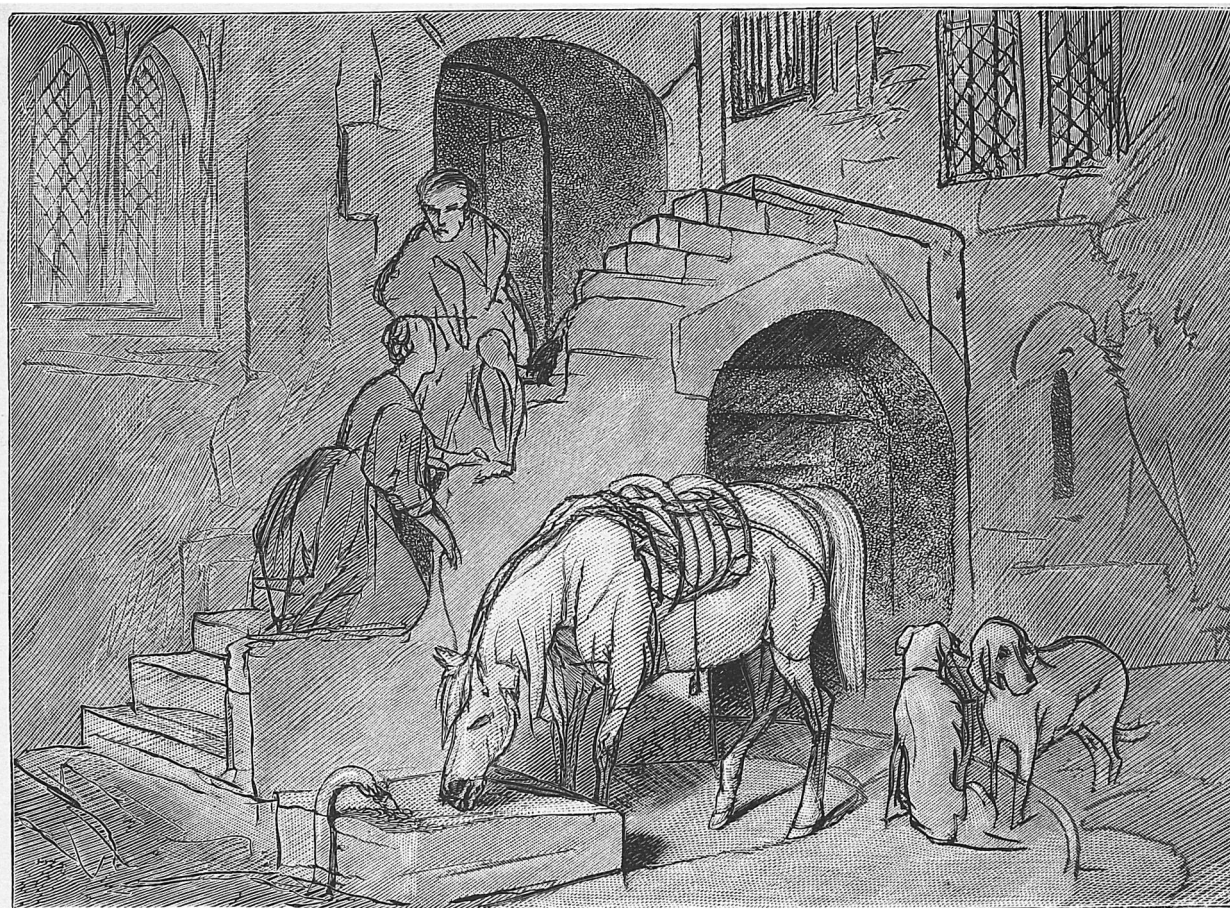
and what weariness in that of the poor stag whose course is certainly 'Near the Finish;' with difficulty he raises his hind legs from the ground, and a few more strides of his pursuers



Near the Finish (1820).—Lent by Frederick A. Milbank, Esq., M.P.

will bring them on his haunches. The sketch is only in pencil, but it is as expressive as if worked out with colour on canvas.

'A Courtyard' is executed with pen and ink; whether it was sketched from nature, or is only a composition, is uncertain; it



A Courtyard (1834).—Lent by Mr. Joseph Page, Nottingham.

has, however, all the materials, and very good materials too, for a picture of much interest. Some portions of the old building

will, we think, be found in more than one of Landseer's finished works where baronial halls are introduced.

J. D.